

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/771,700
Amendment dated April 29, 2004
Reply to OA of February 9, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A functional molding comprising a molding of a functional resin composition which comprises:

a plant-originated functional component (A) having deodorizing properties, antimicrobial properties, physiological properties or antioxidation properties,

a tabular mineral (T) having a low hardness and cleavage,

a ceramics component (C) other than the tabular mineral (T) , and

a resin (R),

wherein at least an external surface of a final molding structure is composed of the molding of said functional resin composition so as to exhibit such functionalities.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A joining type functional molding, which is a core-sheath joining type or bimetal joining type composite molding constructed of an internal component X and an external component Y, and which comprises a functional resin composition comprising:

a plant-originated functional component (A) having deodorizing properties, antimicrobial

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properties, physiological properties or antioxidation properties,

a tabular mineral (T) having a low hardness and cleavage,

a ceramics component (C) other than the tabular mineral (T), and

a resin (R),

wherein resin components of the internal component X and the external component Y are each comprised of a first resin (R_1) and a second resin (R_2), the first resin (R_1) and the second resin (R_2) being a resin the same as or different from each other; and

the functional resin composition is formulated into at least the second resin (R_2) of the external component Y.

Claim 7 (Original): The functional molding as claimed in claim 5, wherein the plant-originated functional component (A) and the ceramics component (C) are formulated in a state of composite particles of the both components.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The functional molding as claimed in claim 5, wherein the plant-originated functional component (A), the ceramics component (C) and the tabular mineral (T) are formulated in a state of composite particles of these components.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The joining type functional molding as claimed in claim 6, wherein the plant-originated functional component (A) and the ceramics component (C) are

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formulated in a state of composite particles of the both components.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The joining type functional molding as claimed in claim 6, wherein the plant-originated functional component (A), the ceramics component (C) and the tabular mineral (T) are formulated in a state of composite particles of these compounds.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The functional molding as claimed in claim 5, wherein the plant-originated functional component (A) is at least one component selected from the group consisting of a catechin, a saponin, a tea-leaf powder, a tea-leaf extract, and tannin (tannic acid).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The functional molding as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ceramics component (C) is a silica gel obtained via a hydrous silicate gel, a combination of an inorganic sintering aid and an inorganic flocculent, a combination of ceramics particles other than the tabular mineral (T), an inorganic sintering aid and an inorganic flocculent, or a water-swelling clay mineral.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The functional molding as claimed in claim 5, wherein the molding of the functional resin composition is a filament or secondary products from the filament.

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~~functional resin composition is a filament or secondary products from the filament.~~

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A filter for an air conditioner, air cleaner or vacuum cleaner, which filter being made of materials composed of filaments or secondary products from the filaments, wherein said material comprises a functional resin composition comprising:

a plant-originated functional component (A) having deodorizing properties, antimicrobial properties, physiological properties or antioxidation properties,

a tabular mineral (T) having a low hardness and cleavage,

ceramics component (C) other than the tabular mineral (T), and

a resin (R).